

An Unpurchasable Press, Giant Statesmen and Everglades

BY GOV. N. B. BROWARD

Next to the need for broad-minded, enthusiastic, earnest statesmen, who aim to have no higher place, nor more lucrative position in the world, than that of serving in the capacity of statesmen the best interests of their constituency, is a free, unpurchasable, patriotic press, that can only be edited by a man who loves the soul of every individual person, and who realizes that man's greatest riches are of the spirit, and who in his paper will ever hold before the vision of his readers those ideas that build for the temporary good and happiness, as subservient to the permanent good which results in that joy that springs from a consciousness of having rendered to society the very best service.

We do not require alarmists as statesmen, nor is there any place for the demagogue. He is constantly so shaping his course in politics, and complaining of the work done by others, to detract from them, that he may look more important, ever appealing to the selfishness of man, ringing the changes in the interest of economy for the sake of getting votes, and giving himself an office, which was his aim in the beginning. As a teacher he teaches nothing that can be of any good to anyone. All the good that he aims to secure is for himself. He rails against state, county, and municipal extravagance, though he bears but little if any of the burden he complains of, and to whatever extent he leads, leads his people against their own best interests.

Some will argue against the seven-mill tax, which is the maximum that can be levied for school purposes in this state, just as their predecessors raised against the one mill, two mill, three mill, and every other raise of the millage that has ever been advocated, not because they believe that our schools are too good, or too expensive, and not because too great a proportion of our children are being educated, nor too well, but because he believes that talking economy will get him a vote. When we look about us, we notice that although we have advanced considerably in the line of education, in the last few years, it is only a great gain over a very poor past. We cannot expect to enjoy the splendid facilities for education, nor the education that comes with the facilities that other states enjoy, unless

we pay for it. Nebraska, one of the youngest states in the Union, levies a maximum of 27 mills for educational purposes, but the demagogic cry of "low millage" was so grounded in our people, four years ago, that I was the only candidate on the stump who would risk speaking in favor of the constitutional amendment that was afterward adopted, increasing the maximum from five mills to seven mills for Florida.

When one advocates good roads, or better roads, the same demagogue turns up to denounce the policy of building them. Did it ever occur to such persons that the present generation of people are good enough to enjoy some good things, or shall all of the good things be left for the enjoyment of others yet to come?

Every Man's Responsibility.
Some will insist that corruption will exist among public officials, and the money will not be economically expended. The proper doctrine is to furnish the money, make the improvements, and if corrupt people are found in office, punish them and reform them, but go on building for the convenience, comfort, and happiness of the people of today, and educate them to work together for the common good, that joy may be possessed by them, instead of happiness which is the result of chance. Someone has said, "Liberty means responsibility, that is why some men dread it." Every person who believes that he would make a suitable representative of the people anywhere should advocate in all of his speeches every man's exercising his senses in solving the problems that should be solved for the public good, as well as for his own good, and making it clear that the citizen can no more escape the burden that a failure to exercise good judgment, or assuming responsibility and acting for himself, will bring upon him, than can an ostrich escape his enemies by sticking his head under a leaf and closing his eyes.

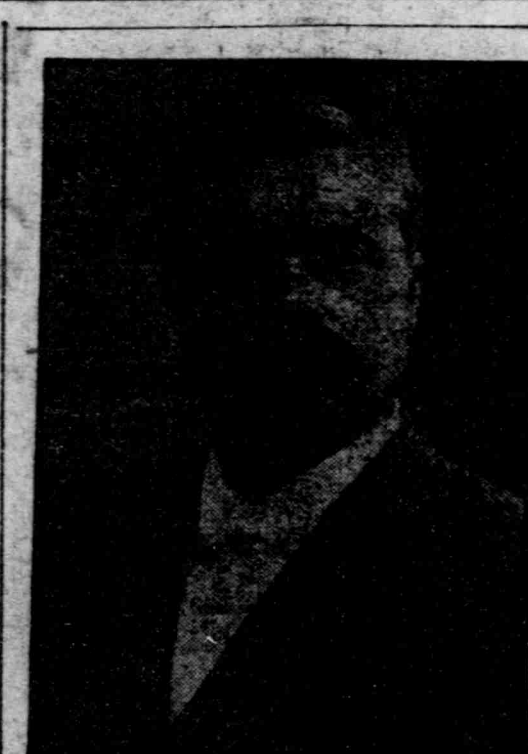
The need of giant statesmen was never really greater than now, nor was there really ever a time that they were as important as they would be to the country now; nor was there ever a time when the people needed patriotic, high-minded, liberty-loving newspaper men more than they do today—never was there a time when it was so difficult to possess and retain these

qualities and earn a living in the business, for the reason that they are boycotted and driven out either on account of a lack of patronage, or because those that are corrupt are paid by certain questionable institutions large sums by which their circulation is increased, and their advertising space paid for to support them with a view to driving out the people who will not suppress the truth, and that will advocate every good thing for the bodies and souls of even the poor, as well as the rich. Don't be ashamed to do this, for the souls despised by some people were considered so valuable by their Creator that he permitted the sacrifice of his son upon the cross to save them.

To hold high office by virtue of the votes of a sovereign people is a great honor, to faithfully serve an honest constituency is a greater honor, and should call forth, upon the part of the public official, every effort within his power to make that will build toward the general welfare.

Despoiled of Riches.
The property holdings of each of many of the states of the Union were very great. The donations to the state by the general government in many instances were very great. These great riches have been frittered away until there is little left that is owned in common by the sovereign people of the state. In many of the states, very great opportunities were given officials to do something with these riches, that would result in great good to the people, but it seemed that in at most every instance all of the powers, or influences, existing at the time, conspired to despoil the state of her riches, instead of helping, by improving the properties, to make taxation unnecessary to operate the public schools, the hospital for the insane and weak-minded, or reformatories and other necessary institutions in a state.

As long as the governor of a state and his cabinet follow some beaten track; the governor signing commissions for officials from the highest to the lowest, seeing solely to the enforcement of the laws, by which the government is maintained, at whatever expense is necessary, and drawing his salary, and each of his cabinet pursues a policy of the same kind; offends no one, lets everyone who is strong enough to be feared, take what



GOV. N. B. BROWARD.

ever he will; the administration will be considered a popular one by those whose greed has been satisfied by their being permitted to take everything that is not nailed to the deck, so to speak; but if the administration chances to be one that undertakes to do something, and to protect the weak, as well as the strongest citizen, and to go out of the beaten track, by recognizing the fact that the souls of men, the joy of the individual, whether rich or poor is to be considered, and make that the test instead of the number of dollars, or influential friends, it is knocked and boxed by every means that can be found by those who seek more than their share, and I hope that all will pardon me for alluding to conditions in this state, as they have existed at some periods of our state's history, and as they have existed in the last few years.

Federal Grants to Florida.
There was patented to the state, by the federal government, a little more than fifty years ago, about one million acres of land for the benefit of education in this state; also five per cent of the sales of all U. S. lands; also

two townships of lands by the federal government a contribution toward the creation of a male and female seminary in this state; also, in addition to all of this, 500,000 acres of land to aid the state in making internal improvements. In addition to this the federal government donated to several lines of railroads every odd-numbered alternate section of land within six miles on each side of the road. In addition to that, there was granted to the state, by the federal government, all of the swamp and overflowed lands within her borders, amounting to more than twenty million acres, to aid the state in draining and reclaiming it by means of levees and drains.

The legislature of the state accepted the donation, with the conditions attached, upon which they must accept it, and created trustees to take charge of it, and carry out the trust authorized. Subsequent legislatures granted alternate sections of state land within six miles of any railroad, as the state's contribution toward public improvement.

Here we have donated by the federal government and the state government the odd-numbered and even-numbered sections of land within six miles of each side of any railroad, and even then the state would have had left one-half million acres of land, donated to aid the state in clearing out streams and building highways—good roads for instance—as a donation of the federal government. After these donations are considered, we would have had left fifteen or sixteen million acres of land, or one-half the surface area of the state would have still remained a common possession of all the people; but in 1879, a policy was entered upon and continued in for more than twenty years, of granting to every railroad scheme that was advanced before the legislature of the state, from five thousand acres per mile to as high as twenty thousand acres per mile, in addition to what had heretofore been given, under the first system.

The Everglades.
In 1901, the public domain, so far as it had been patented by the U. S. government was almost entirely used up. In 1903, a patent was issued to the state comprising 2,760,000 acres in one body, known as the Everglades. With the other remnants of land add-

ed to it, the state had, in the beginning of 1905, 2,960,000 acres, with outstanding claims for more than seven million acres, created by legislative enactment, to be satisfied or disposed of in some way. As to who was right, or who was wrong, we will not discuss. As to which policy is right, and which policy was wrong, we will not consider here, but as soon as an administration was ushered in that refused to make further donations, or refused to deed lands in compliance with the wishes of the claimants, wholesale abuse of executive and administrative officers was commenced.

In justice to the legislatures that have come and gone, be it said, in almost every grant made by them, they so worded the act that it would only apply, after all of the expenses of drainage and reclamation had been paid, therefore only the residue of the lands were made subject to the grant, yet so strong were the combinations, and so completely were the people persuaded into the idea of donating, that almost a full compliance with the application of the claimants was made, for more than twenty years preceding the year 1901.

The people thought, as a matter of course, that the land was for no other purpose than to be given away, and so strong and so prevalent was this belief, and so carefully had it been inculcated into the minds of the people, that if any executive or administrative officer assumed to advocate the reverse, or to deny the right of the claimants, he was traduced, frowned at, and forced out of politics as a demagogue.

What is Left of Property.
Slightly more than two million acres of land, two dredges at work and two new steel dredges about to go to work, in what is left of a public domain, in the possession of which we found ourselves, fifty years ago, equal in area to the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maryland and Delaware, as a public possession.

Although twenty million acres of land were given the state to aid her in draining and reclaiming it, not exceeding twenty thousand acres was ever reclaimed by drainage. Governor Bloxham made a contract with Hamilton Diston to drain several million acres of land, which work continued through Governor Bloxham's first ad-

ministration, and through the Fleming and Perry administrations, but the work was terminated in 1893, before the drains in sufficient number had been opened into the sea and gulf to be of any service, so far as drainage to the territory was concerned; although they will be of service in future, when properly connected with canals leading into the ocean and gulf. No one objected to drainage operations, during the several administrations mentioned, for the reason that as fast as any of the land was thought to be drained, it was deeded to first one railroad, then another; which seemed to be the fixed policy of the state. The newspapers, owned by special interests, praised these administrations, which pursued this policy, whether right or wrong, because their owners were permitted to take the lands, as quickly as they were improved, or not improved. I will say that, although but a small remnant is left, it is larger than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island and large enough to be a source of great wealth to the state.

Consumption of Sugar.
The amount of sugar used in the United States is about three million tons, or about sixty-three pounds per capita. The sugar imported into the United States amounts to about two and one-quarter million tons per annum. In a recent interview, one of the Havermeyers stated that his company alone had paid as custom house duty on sugar to the United States government more than \$300,000,000 in the last six years; and that the imported sugar into the United States from foreign people, than did the foreign people pay to the United States for corn, wheat, wheat-flour, beef and naval stores combined.

I notice that Colonel Kraemer wrote, in 1882, that after careful investigation he found that the sugar imported into the United States from foreign countries, in thirty-two years, from 1850 to 1882, amounted to \$1,800,000,000, and that the output of gold and silver from all of the mines in the United States, during the same thirty-two years, was but \$1,700,000,000. That in thirty-two years as a nation, we paid to foreign countries for sugar \$100,000,000 more than was the whole output of all of our rich bonanzas of the

(Continued on Page Forty-Six)

D'Alemberte's Pharmacy

D'Alemberte's Pharmacy

D'Alemberte's Pharmacy

MORE SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPER



Cigar Sets
Manicure Sets of Every Description
Military Hair Brushes
Collar and Cuff Boxes
Powder and Puff Boxes
Mirrors, all kinds and styles
Candelabras

Hair Receivers
Perfumes, Imported and Domestic
Shaving Sets
Shaving Mug and Brushes
Comb and Mug Sets
Writing Portfolios

Handkerchief and Glove Boxes
Cigar Stands
Hat and Clothes Brushes
Baby Comb and Brush Sets
Pipes, all kinds
Cigars in Boxes from 12 to 100

A HOLIDAY GIFT

A Holiday Necessity
A BOX OF



Sterling Silver Whisk Brooms
Sterling Silver Nail Files
Sterling Silver Button Hooks
Sterling Silver Comb and Brush Sets
Sterling Silver Manicure Sets
Jewel Boxes
Utility Cases

For any of your friends can easily be selected from our large and varied assortment. We can show you over a thousand different articles for the holiday trade, and the prices are right. There are hundreds more, and to fully appreciate the vastness of our display, it is necessary that you give a liberal allowance of time, while on your shopping tours, to their inspection.

Kayler's Candy

in 1/2, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5-lb. boxes and fancy baskets. Known the world over.

Sterling Silver Cold Cream Jars
Combination Sets, including Sachet, Face Powder and Extract
Cut Glass Perfume Bottles
Music Rolls
Hunter's Flasks
Tourist Cases
Sponge Rags



W. A. D'ALEMBERTE

Druggist and Apothecary

109 S. Palafox Street.